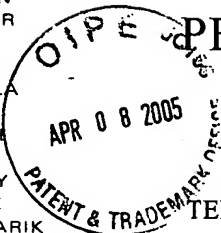


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April 5, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application for
"SAMPLING DEVICE"
Serial No.: 10/018,157
Filed: December 6, 2001
Patent No.: 6,810,756 B2
Issue Date: November 2, 2004
Our Docket: 34110

Sir:

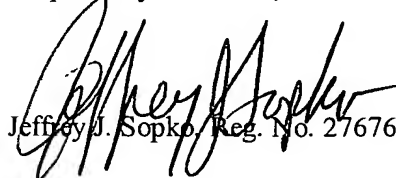
In proofreading the above-referenced patent, a typographical error was noted. It is not believed that the error requires a Certificate of Correction. However, it is respectfully requested that this letter be placed in the file for this case.

The following error was noted:

Column 4

Line 15, please delete "S" and insert therefor --5--.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey J. Sopko, Reg. No. 27676

JJS:vlh

Enclosure

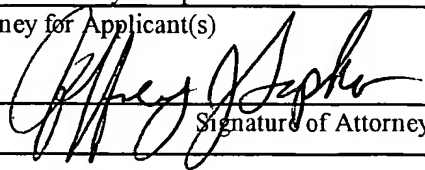
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Jeffrey J. Sopko

Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

April 5, 2005

Date


Signature of Attorney

Returning to figure 1, it can be seen that the handle 15 can be provided with a skirt 32 covering one end of the rotating plug 4 projecting from the body 1 and on which graduations 33 were drawn. When the piston 11 is pressed in, the skirt 32 covers these graduations 33 one after the other to quantify the variation of the chamber 12 and the sampled volume. This feature is very useful with dangerous samples, since in this case all that is sampled is an acceptable quantity defined by a threshold.

Rotation of the rotating plug 4 is facilitated if the flange 5 is provided with a sliding pin 34 that can be pulled by a button 35 but which returns to a penetration position under the action of a spring, in which it penetrates into the holes 37 formed in the body 1 and that define special positions (as shown in figure 2) of the rotating plug 4. Only one of these holes 37 can be seen in figure 1, but the other holes are identical.

The ring 3 made of a material with a low coefficient of friction and compressed between the body 1 and the rotating plug 4, creates a sufficiently good seal around drillings 24 and 25, the bottom 10 of the rotating plug 4 hermetically closes the chamber 12 on one side, and the piston 11 is provided with seals 38 that produce the same effect on the other side of the chamber 12. Therefore, at the very worst, sample leaks are very small.

Maintenance of the device is easy due to the simple shapes of its elements, and in particular it is easy to open body 1 at both ends; it can immediately be seen that the device can be completely disassembled